and maintained and managed by the Village Panchayats, as they were self-supporting. But all secondary education, comprising high school and collegiate education, should continue to be looked after by the Government as at present. The Member was sanguine that, if such a policy was pursued, Government would be able to make a large saving which could be utilised for technical education.

The Member represented that the rule requiring 6 months' notice to start new schools worked hardship and requested that the period might be reduced to 3 months.

The Member concluded by requesting the Government to appoint a Sanskrit Munshi in the Shertallai High School and to modify the rule requiring the location of schools at a distance of three miles from one another so far as Shertallai was concerned, as that taluk had no proper means of communication. The Member finally prayed for the abolition of Bible teaching during school hours throughout the State.

Dewan's reply.—I am in entire agreement with the remarks you have made on the evils of the present system of vernacular education. You have outlined a policy which is both wise and proper, but I am not quite sure whether you are voicing public opinion in what you have said. I take it that what you have said amounts to this, *viz.*, that primary education alone should be the responsibility of Governme[illegible] that and that primary education should be pushed to its furthest extent. There is no [illegible] with sub[illegible]mpulsory education in this country, because the desire for education is s[illegible]ded. [illegible] the ject[illegible]nd intense. Government have already laid down that the spread of [illegible] of the duc[illegible]on is their policy.

[illegible] You then proceeded to say that Vernacular and English [illegible] of co-operation was of [illegible] would be combined. That is what one other mem[illegible] the unsatisfactory working subjus[illegible]ning to be said against it. But you have also [illegible] He said that the Co-operative Stores [illegible]ancial objection, and you have said that [illegible]had not been working satisfactorily and that [illegible]ducation costl[illegible] Then you suggest[illegible]rking well. He referred to the debate in the [illegible] at the nece[illegible]opmen[illegible] Board [illegible] to the working of Co-operative Societies and pointed to pr[illegible]hool teachers as the persons who were in a position to work Co-operative Stores [illegible] not satisfactorily. Those teachers might be given a bonus for the assistance they rendered in that direction. He also referred to the necessity of taking the people into the confidence of Government in all matters pertaining to their welfare and of opening Anchal savings banks and manure depots, as also the formation of taluk and district boards and the establishment of libraries in the several taluks.

Dewan's reply.—You have mentioned many details. I do not think that there is need to reply to all of them. The central idea is that local boards should be instituted and that non-official opinion should be consulted. As the first step towards that, the Village Panchayat Bill has been published, and when the Bill becomes law, Village Panchayats could be instituted to look after definite local needs. As to whether you should have taluk boards and district boards, it is a matter which could be settled after Village Panchayats have been created and have worked for some time.

125. Needs of the Vilavankod taluk.

Mr. P. C. Kesava Pillai (Member, Vilavankod Taluk) thanked the Government for the English High School recently given to the taluk and for the scheme for the improvement of minor irrigation works recently sanctioned. He then dwelt also on the desirability of bringing the *pakuthies* of Nattalam, Killiyur, Midalam, Kizkkulam, etc., of the newly constituted Vilavankod taluk under the jurisdiction of the Kuzhittura Munsiff's court. The Member stated that those *pakuthies* were nearer to the Kuzhittura court than to the Padmanabhapuram court under which they were placed at present. He also stated that till 1085 those *pakuthies* along with Attur and Tiruvattar had been under the Kuzhittura court. He was of opinion that making the additional court at Kuzhittura permanent was all that was required by way of sanctioning his prayer.

The Member then referred to the inconvenience of the people consequent on the absence of a First Class Magistrate's court at Kuzhittura.

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You said that the six months' notice now required for starting new schools should be reduced to three months. Even six months are insufficient, because very often the required conditions are not carried out within that time. We will, however, reduce the period to three months and watch the effect of the change.

With regard to the appointment of a Sanskrit Munshi in the Shertallai English School, it is a matter of detail. I do not know the number of pupils studying Sanskrit in the Shertallai school. If there is a sufficient number, a Munshi will be appointed.

In regard to the teaching of the Bible, I received a deputation some time ago which raised this question. I told the deputation that the matter would be considered. The matter is under the consideration of Government.

121. Tamil Education.

Mr. S. Ganapati Pillai (Member, Trading Classes, Trivandrum), after thanking the Government on behalf of the Tamilians for issuing the G. O. Dis. No. 105 of 1923—Rev.-E. dated the 28th January, 1923, *in re.* Tamil education, invited the attention of the Government to some of its defects. He urged that the study of Malayalam should not be made compulsory in classes III and IV of Tamil schools, as a working knowledge of Malayalam could be easily picked up without going any regular instruction in schools. He also pressed his former request that Form I in Tamil as the official language in the Tamil taluks.

[illegible] suggested that the conversion of class II into a Tamil [illegible] from the beginning of the next school year itself. The [illegible] schools in suitable centres was another necessity. In regard to the Tamil language for the recruitment of teachers, preliminary arrangements might be made [illegible] pointing graduates with Tamil as the second language [illegible] inspecting [illegible] certain

1. *Agricultural loans.* The Member stated that the people had not understood properly the advantages or usefulness of such loans and suggested that, to bring the benefits within the reach of a larger number of agriculturists, respectable non-officials might be empowered to certify that the applicants were poor *bona fide* agriculturists and thus help the Revenue Department in the grant of loans.

2. *Irrigation Conference.* The Member pointed out that means should be found for utilising the surplus and seepage water from the Kodayar, which was now running to waste, and proposed that a conference of Irrigation officers might be arranged to be held for suggesting the necessary measures. Mr. V. Arunachalam Aiyar, Executive Engineer, was familiar with the subject and knew the importance of such a Conference.

3. *Water-supply to the town of Nagercoil.* The Member said that the long felt absence of fresh water in and about Nagercoil had been a matter of representation at several sessions of the Assembly and that the question was being delayed too long. He observed that the surplus fund in the Municipality supplemented by Government contribution would be sufficient to meet the demand, and that, even otherwise, a loan which might be raised for the purpose could be easily repaid in the course of 50 years by means of water-tax. As no settlement had been arrived at in the matter; the Member suggested the appointment of a Committee with Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar, Chief Engineer, as President, to find ways and means for the speedy execution of the scheme.

4. *Vadivisvaram Tank.* The Member said that that tank stood in need of urgent repair, that representations to the Municipality and the Government had not so far been fruitful, and that the tank in question, used by thousands of people, was deteriorating day by day. When representations were made, Government said that it was a work for the Municipality to take up, while the Municipality said that it was a temple tank, and the Maramat Department stated that it was an irrigation tank.

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